

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION:

Saturday, January 11. 1706.

I Have hitherto proceeded to say something of what has been printed, relating to the several Heads of Taxes, Excises, Equalities, and the like, between, *England* and *Scotland* in Case of a Union, in Answer to Mr. H—s and other Objectors—

There is indeed a certain Gentleman, who has printed *Considerations, &c. upon Trade, in Case of the Union*, and he makes large Demands: As first, "That the Draw-back upon Fish should be considerably more than the Value of the Salt."

This is an admirable Equality, I must confess, and is all one with a good Bounty on the Export of Fish, and deserves no other Reply.

On Excises he demands, That they should have Draw-backs, as he calls them, *as if*

is Nonsense, no Duty being first paid, on Beer, Pease and Oats, as well as on Barley, Rye and Wheat.

As to their Beer, 'tis plain, it is the same kind as Barley, and they have a Bounty of 2 s. 6 d. per Quarter for it upon Exportation; for Pease and Oats they need no Bounty to export them; for *England* wants them, and will take off the greatest Quantity they can spare; and it would be Nonsense to give a Bounty to export that abroad, which we want at home.

Then he demands Liberty to export the Woollen Manufactures, Linnen, and other Branches of Improvement of *Scotland*.

This is a very weak Demand, since they enjoy it by the very Nature of the thing, and by the Terms of the Union; no Tax can be laid on the Woollen Manufactures of that

That Kingdom of any Sort, unless at the same Time the same Tax be laid on the Woollen Manufactures in this ; otherwise how have the Subjects equal Privileges and equal Taxes ?

All these things are trifling and of no Consequence.

Then he objects against the Article of Shipping, but forgets, that it is not deny'd for *English* Ships to bring from *Holland* or *Germany* any Goods to them whatsoever, and there are enough of them, without letting the *Dutch* into the Trade, and make them Carriers to *Britain*, when our own Ships and Sailors want Employment.

Then he wants a Port in *Scotland* to import *Irish* Wool. There is no need to condition in the Treaty for it, they may on Demand have as many as they please, and *England* might have more if they wanted it, the Restraint being design'd for the *Irish* not the *English*.

So all these mighty Demands are over. I come next to their Calculations on the Equivalent, and its being repaid in 11 Years: Suppose I allow it to be so, I see no Argument to be drawn from it, they are Equivalents to one another ; *England* gives the Money as an Equivalent to the Customs, and *Scotland* pays the Customs as an Equivalent to the Money. The Necessity of the one is the Reason of the other ; and if the Customs did not pay it again, I would ask, why it is advanc'd at all ? But still the Calculation is supposititious as to Time also, and it may be 100 Years and more, for any thing appears in this Calculation ; and if it may be a long time, then the Consideration for a Risque of its Certainty is worth more than common Interest, since if the Customs of *Scotland* do not encrease, and as some suggest, Trade should decline in *Scotland*, they may perhaps be never repaid at all.

If the Customs do encrease, the Trade encreases, and then the Union helps them to encrease ; and so the sooner it is paid, the more they get by the Union, and the longer 'tis a paying, the greater the Hazard to *England* is, in advancing their ready Money ; and this I think, is all can be made of their nice Calculations ; of which I shall speak more largely by and by.

But then, says this wise Gentleman, " All Endeavours should be used to free us " from the Excise upon Beer and Ale. A very good Project indeed, and yet they would, in the first Place, receive above 304066 l. as an Equivalent for that Excise ; and secondly, they agree to an Equality of Taxes, so I think there is an End of that Demand.

Another Objection, this Author raises, is about *England's* being tied up in Trade by incorporated Companies—Which is brought to argue against dissolving the *African* Company in *Scotland*.

Now, as the *African* Company here, neither is, nor in my Opinion ever was in Prospect of Success, or worth any Man's Notice as to *Scotland* in Trade, abstracting from the Assistance and Correspondence from *England* for the Vent of their Returns, and that it signifies not two Farthings whether dissolv'd or no, farther than to prevent a new Set of Interlopers with *English* Stocks under a *Scots* Title, so as to other Companies in *England*, the Suggestion is fallily stated : For first, there is no exclusive Company in *England*, but that of the *East-India*, and that the *Scots* have equal Right to be concern'd in, by purchasing the Stock, as any *English* Men have.

As to the *Guinea* Trade, upon paying 10 per Cent. to the Company, any Body may trade, and their Factories, Colonies and Forts being their Settlement, under cover of which that Trade must be carried on, 'tis worth the Payment to obtain the Privilege.

The *Turkey*, *Hamburg* and *Russia* Companies require only certain small Muls to maintain their Consuls, Residents and Ambassadors, and a small Fine at taking up the Freedoms ; and the Advantages in these Cases, as to the Safety of Effects, and Security of the Commerce abroad, are the Interest of all the Traders ; so that any Man, *Scots* Man or other, on these small Payments, may be admitted to a Freedom in the Company, and consequently into the Trade equally with *English* Men.

I think, I have now left none of the Objections unanswer'd, that bear any Weight in them ; the Duties of Dales and Iron are of no Value to merit an Alteration. As to the

the Duty on Flax, if it were to pay 3 *l.* per 100, instead of 3 *s.* it would be better for Scotland, where they have Lands and Islands enough, and ought to plant it themselves;

especially since it is apparent, that when they do plant it, their Land produces better and finer than any they bring from abroad.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have taken some Pains in the *Miscellanea* Part of this Paper, to show the ridiculous Notions of those, who fancy all Scotland in a Flame against the Union; I wish at last the Enemies of the Union do not appear to be nearer home, and the Animosities there to be mov'd from hence; since the Proceedings in England are so directly calculated for the Destruction of that Treaty, than they are in Scotland.

I know, the Enemies of Scotland boast of their Hopes, and the Friends of Peace are not without their Fears, that this Union shall prove abortive there; but above all, that it shall be overthrown by the *Presbyterians* themselves.

I will not answer for the Indiscretions and hasty Errors of a People, who are capable of being abus'd, and perhaps some Steps may have been taken to give them but too much Ground for such Expectations; but the Joy of the Party has been discover'd too soon, and indeed the Snare was laid in the Sight of the Bird; the Plot is discover'd, and they may depend on it on all sides, that the poor People design'd for a Sacrifice will not be drawn into the Pit, the *Presbyterians* will not do the Work, the Kirk of Scotland will not bring in *Jacobitism* or *Papery*, they will stop short at the Point, and fall off from the Project.

I must own, this looks to me as another Instance of the Rupid and insatuated Folly of that unhapy Party; that they should think ever to reconcile the Kirk and the Pope, the Revolution and the Family of King James, the *Presbyterian* and the French Interest into one.

Perhaps a few deluded poor People, led by their Passions, and impos'd upon by their subtil and wheedling Enemies, might be brought into the Snare; but I take the

Freedom to say, they all abandon them as soon as they discover the real Design; and if they did not expect these would do so, it was their Fault, and no Body can be blam'd for that but themselves.

All my Conclusion from hence is resolv'd into two Things.

1. This *Jacobite* scoundrel Cause is not able to stand by it self, cannot subsist upon its own Interest, nor live on its own Spirits, no not at home nor abroad——All the Foundation of its own Power cannot support it, it cannot fight with its own Hands, spend its own Money, be help'd by its own Friends; all its own Mines are sprung, 'tis languishing, dying and despairing; nothing but Craft and Artifice, juggling, lying, betraying, buying and selling, will do the Business now; their own Ammunition is all spent, and without these Helps they must sink; there is nothing left them, but to hang themselves or desert their Cause.

2. The Interest of Religion and Liberty in Britain has but one Door of Danger, at which Destruction can enter; but one fatal Article which lays them open to any real Mischief, and that is, being gull'd, wheedled, drawn, or driven into Dis-Unions, Breaches, Quarrels and Divisions among themselves.

The Remedy for this is a Doctrine, which has been so often inculcated by the Nature and Circumstances of both Kingdoms, that I would hope, there should be no more need to say any thing to it——And I am perswaded, there is no real Occasion to fear either Nation being any more cheated in that Manner.

Whereas: